

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 have been withdrawn. Claim 13 has been amended. Accordingly, claims 6-13 are currently pending in the application.

Response to the Restriction Requirement

Applicants elect to prosecute the invention defined by the Examiner as Species I, Figure 5, including claims 6-13. This election is made with traverse.

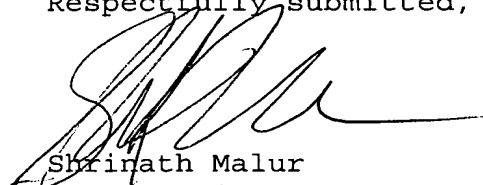
Certified Priority Documents

Applicants submit herewith the certified copies of the corresponding Japanese patent applications (JP2001-149827, filed May 18, 2001 and JP2001-213991, filed July 13, 2001). An indication that these documents have been safely received would be appreciated.

Conclusion

Examination of all of the elected claims is hereby requested. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any payment due to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.

Respectfully submitted,



Shrinath Malur
Registration No. 34,663
Attorney for Applicant(s)

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR
1800 Diagonal Rd., Suite 370
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1120
Date: January 26, 2004